

Remarks

Claims 1-16 are pending in this Application. In the Office Action mailed on August 24, 2004, the Examiner:

1. advised Applicants of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56;
2. advised Applicants of the revised restriction of claims to one of two groups and stated that Applicants had provisionally elected, by telephone, Group 1, Claims 1-9 and 11-16;
3. rejected Claims 1-9 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not providing reasonable enablement;
4. Claims 1-9 and 11-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicants respectfully address the restriction requirement, joint inventorship and the Examiner's rejections below.

Statement of Joint Inventorship

On page 2 of the Office Action, Applicants were advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time of invention in order to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f), or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Applicants hereby state that the rights to each invention of the claimed subject matter in the instant application were, at the time of such invention, commonly owned by the Assignee as a consequence of invention assignments from the named inventors.

Restriction/Election

On page 2 and 3 of the Office Action, Applicants were advised that the restriction of claims had been revised to include: Group 1, Claims 1-9 and 11-16; and Group II, Claim 10. Applicants provisionally elected Group I—Claims 1-9 and 11-16—with traverse for continued prosecution in a phone call on or about August 16, 2004. Applicants hereby reiterate their provisional election of Group I and request that Claim 10 be withdrawn from further prosecution. Any claim cancellation will be made upon the filing of a divisional patent application.

Claim Rejections

Applicants again thank the Examiner for discussing the Office Action during a phone conversation held on January 24, 2005. Further to the phone conversation, Applicants respectfully submit amended Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 15 and 16. Claims 1, 3, 11, 15 and 16 have been amended to further define the subject matter of the claimed invention. Claims 4, 13 and 15 have been amended as to matters of form. It is believed that the amended and original claims distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Applicants respectfully request entry and allowance of amended Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 13, 15 and 16 as well as original Claims 2, 5-9, 12 and 14.

Applicants also respectfully request entry and allowance of new Claim 17, introduced to provide protection for that which is believed to be Applicants' invention. New Claim 17 is believed necessary to fairly protect the instant invention.

Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that new Claims 36-62 are in condition for allowance. Applicants also respectfully submit new Claim 17 believed necessary to fairly protect the instant invention. Entry and allowance of new Claim 17 is respectfully requested. Favorable consideration for and allowance of pending and new claims is therefore respectfully requested.

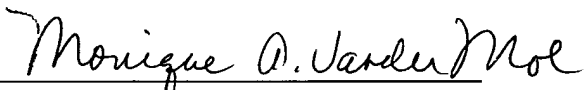
This Amendment is being filed with a Request for a Two (2) Month Extension of Time Applicant. Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, other than the issue fee, that may be required by this paper to Deposit Account 07-0153.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, or if further clarification is required, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: January 24, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

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